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Nat'l. Phase of PCT/EP2004/013200  
Preliminary Amendment dated May 9, 2006

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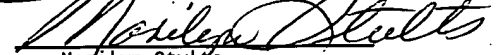
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Roland BÜHLMANN, et al.  
Serial No. : National Phase of  
PCT/EP/2004/013200  
Filed : Herewith  
For : DEVICE FOR ACTUATING A  
SLIDING CLOSURE APPLIED TO  
A VESSEL CONTAINING A  
MOLTEN METAL  
Art Unit : To be Assigned  
Examiner : To Be Assigned  
Confirm. No.: To Be Assigned  
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
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S I R :

Preliminary to examination of the present application,  
please enter the following Amendment:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.